RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 6th May, 1987/16 Vaisakha, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*281. [The questioner (Shri V. Narayanasamy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 36 infra.]

Khurda—Bolangir Rail Line

*282. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted by railways for the laying of Khurda—Bolangir rail line under South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. by RITES.

(b) The total length of the project line is 289 kms. The estimated cost is Rs. 209 crores.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: As regards transport, emphasis has been given in the Seventh Five Year Plan, that the crucial task is as a special case, to increase the capacity of transport system in step with the economic development of the country. As such, emphasis has to be given on economically backward areas which have not been linked with railways. The necessity of this line is being felt by the people of four districts out of which one is tribal dominated i.e. Phulbani. Enough mineral and forest resources are available in this area. A number of industries have come up due to liberal industrial policy of the State Government. In this regard, already a local M.P., Shri Somnath Rath has written a letter to the hon. Minister demanding to connect this line with Gopalpur Point. I would also like to refer to the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now put the question. Time is over.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My question is, in view of the declared policy of the Government to give priority to undeveloped areas, I would like to know the circumstances in which the project is said to have been abondoned.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The report is still under scrutiny.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My second supplementary. Is it a fact that the RITE company was given the charge to conduct the survey of this line from Khurda to Bolangir? If so, how much amount was paid to this company?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The survey was conducted by RITES which is a fully-owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways and they have completed the survey. The report is under scrutiny.

SHRI BASUDEV MOHAPATRA: What is the amount spent?

MR CHAIRMAN: There is no other supplementray. Next question.

Commemorative Postal Stamps

*293. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:†

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagatram Manhar.

CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to issue commemorative stamps in respect of National leaders during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the names of the leaders in whose memory such stamps are likely to be released; and

(c) what are the criteria adopted in selecting the leaders for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of National leaders and other eminent personalities on whom commemorative/special postage stamps are proposed to be issued during current year is furnished in the statement laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(c) A set of guideline have been laid down for the purpose of examining proposals for issue of Commemorative/Special stamps as per statement laid on the Table of the House. Proposals are also placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee which functions in the Department to advise the Government on such matters. The recommendations of the Committee, as also the Guidelines, are generally kept in view while deciding about the issue of stamps.

Statement

List of National leaders and other personalities on whom stamps are proposed to be issued during 1987.

	Name	Proposed Date of Issue
1.	Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore	8-5-1987
2.	J. Krishnamurti	11-5-1987
3.	Guru Ghasi Das	16-6-1987
4.	K.N. Katju	17-6-1987
5.	S. Satyamurthy	19-8-1987
6.	Sant Harchand Singh Longowal	20-8-1987
7.	Thakur Anukulchandra	14-9-1987
8.	Hirday Nath Kunzru	1-10-1987
9.	Chhatrasal	To be fixed
10.	Madan Lal Dhingra	To be fixed

Guidelines for the issue of commemorative/special postage stamp

1. Proposals may be taken up well in advance, say about a year before the proposed date of issue, to enable proper examination, designing, approval announcement, printing and supply of stamps as part of planned programme.

2. A stamp commemorating a living personality may not ordinarily be issued.

3. Not more than one stamp on a personality may be issued save in exceptional cases. In such cases, the proposals may be considerad by the Government on the recommendation of the Philatelic Advisory Committee.

4. The personalities on whom commemorative stamps are issued may be of regional or national or in-

ternational importance and the occasion should be ordinarily birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100 death anniversary. Commemorative stamps may be issued on the first death anniversary of the personality, only in very exceptional cases.

5. No stamp may ordinarily be issued commemorating an institution unless the occasion is its centenary.

6. Events of very important national or international character may only be considered for issue of stamp, occasions of lesser importance may be commemorated by providing special cancellation.

7. Commemorative/special stamps issued in a year may be about 40 and of these stamps on eminent personalities may be about 10.

श्री भगतराम मनहर : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि जिस विशिष्ट व्यक्ति पर स्मारक डाक-टिकट जारी किया जाना है, वह क्षेत्रीय, राष्ट्रीय अथवा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ख्याती प्राप्त होना चाहिए।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि प्रोवीजनल पार्लियामेंट और संविधान सभा के अधिकांश सदस्यगण या तो स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानी रहे हैं या ख्याति प्राप्त समाज सेवी, बुद्धिजीवी, लेखक या कवि आदि जो थे तो क्या प्रोविजनल पार्लियामेंट और संविधान सभा के ख्याति प्राप्त क्षेत्रीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर के जो व्यक्ति थे उन पर डाक टिकट जारी हो गई है ?

अगर अभी बचे हैं, तो कितने लोगों पर अभी कार्यवाही हो रही है ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I have got a list of 267 persons on whom stamps have been released since 1947. I cannot say how many of them are members of the Constituent Assembly. I can lay the list on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary to issue stamps on every Member of Parliament.

श्री भगतराम मनहर मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने क्या पिछले दिनों क्षेत्रीय राष्ट्रीय स्तर के ख्याति प्राप्त व्यक्तियों के बारे में डाक-टिकट जारी करने हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव दिया है ? यदि दिया है, तो उनके नाम क्या हैं और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही हो रही है ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I have laid on the Table of the House names of ten persons who are proposed to be honoured this year. There are as many as 56 proposals from various State Governments, individuals and associations. The Philatelic Committee has since been formulated and they will go into each and every case on merit. For Madhya Pradesh recently we have decided on Chhatrasal—who is a great personality of Madhya Pradesh—and Guru Ghasi Das. We have decided that already for the current year. There are others also for consideration.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, it has not been said in the answer what the mode of making a proposal is. Therefore through this House, may I put before the hon. Minister the case of a great son of India—Ulamma Shiblinamani, who was born in my district and was an orientalist of international repute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you written to the Minister?

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I did not know. That is why I am asking....

MR. CHAIRMAN: But have you written?

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: No, because I said that in

the answer it is not defined what is the mode of making a proposal. Therefore, that may be one of the modes. This may be another mode. I was trying to emphasise about the personality of a man and the stupendous task he did...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please read the answer. The Minister says that the proposal must be made in advance. Therefore the proposal must come from somebody. Has anybody, to your knowledge, made any proposal?

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I have not made so far. But this is my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you make it. Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, the Minister has given a list of national leadres and other personalities and also the guidelines under which these names can be proposed. Because he has said, about political leaders, national leaders and great personalities, I think Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was one of the greatest patriots and national leaders who fought for the freedom of the country. I have not made any suggestion, but I would like to know from the Minister whether Government have received any proposal for issuing a stamp in his name.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. I will put it before the Committee for consideration.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I appreciate that the Government attaches due significance to the question of issuing commemorative stamps to honour those great personalities who may have made immense sacrifices for the cause of the nation. And that way we try to preserve, for the present generation as well as for the coming generations; the memory of those great personalities

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not make a general speech.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the commemorative stamp is issued only once. You are in fact making a fetish of it by organising a function and sending the postage stamp to some of the major post offices, thereby putting an end to it. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the commemorative stamp is issued only once and whether Government would take steps to ensure that the same stamp is reprinted a number of times so that it remains in circulation for a reasonably long time

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, according to the present practice when a commemorative stamp is printed, it is printed in one million and not reprinted. But we do not print commemorative stamps only once. For special personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. Ambedkar, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't read all the names.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: ...we have issued more than one time also. Precedents are there. Seeing the organization of various special functions and birthday celebrations, we do publish, but not more than once. Once it is printed, it is over.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Sir, five years have passed since the great leader of Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, passed away. I do not know if it will glorify him; he has a place in our history. He brought Kashmir to India. But, isn't it disconcerting that a commemorative stamp in his name has not been issued till now?

AN HON. MEMBER: You propose

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, a proposal has come and we are examining it.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, I saw a list of ten personalities in whose name stamps are proposed to be issued, but I do not find the name of Sri Narayana Guru therein, whose name the State Government has already recommended. I do not know what happened to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please see.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Whenever the President or Prime Minister goes to Kerala, every time...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. He will now find out whether it has been issued or not. Please see to that.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I will check up, Sir.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, does the Government come forward with these stamps on the basis of proposals submitted to it or does it also issue stamps *suo motu* and, if so, what are the cases in which the Government has done so *suo motu*?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, in the past Government, on its own, had done it. Recently we have decided to publish one commemorative stamp in the name of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal—and that is at the initiative of our Cabinet Minister. The proposal did not come but we thought it would be dignified to issue such stamps. Like that, on certain occasions we do take decisions and we discuss with the members of the Philatelic Committee also. Members of Parliament also write to us; sometimes they verbally suggest. Just now one suggestion has come from the Chairman; we shall consider it very seriously.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर, अगले वर्ष भारतीय समाजवाद के नेता और अजात शत्रु जो इस [illegible] सदस्य भी थे और महान शिक्षाविद आचार्य नरेन्द्र देव की जन्म शताब्दि पड़ रही है, तो क्या सरकार उन के स्मारक में डाक टिकट निकालने का प्रस्ताव रखती है ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I cannot commit for the Committee. Any suggestion I will place before the Committee for their consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You place this suggestion also.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Thank you, Sir.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हू कि भारत की पहली राज क्रांति 1857 के शहीद राव तुला राम के लिए कई बार मांग की गई, मंगल पांडे के लिए की गई क्या इनके बारे में भी डाक टिकट निकालने का गवर्नमेंट विचार कर रही है, जबकि मांग आ चूकी हैं ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, every year we publish a maximum of 40 stamps. This year, because of the various demands we have gone up to 50. But I assure the Members, any suggestion from the honourable Members will be very seriously considered by the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta. Let all the people exhaust the names.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, several Members of Parliament from Gujarat have represented to the Ministry...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No lecture is necessary. You just mention the name and he will consider it.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, the well-known patriot and philanthropist, Mr. Nanji Kalidas's name has been submitted to the Ministry for consideration. What has been done about it?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, this is pending consideration.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, there is a request from Assam to issue a commemorative stamp in respect of Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, the first Congress President in Assam and who was a Member of the Constituent Assembly also. Another request was there to issue a commemorative stamp in respect of Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, one of the makers of modern Assamese literature and an educationalist. I would like to know from the honourable Minister what steps he is taking in this connection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are suggesting those two names now.

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will take note of it.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Yes, Sir. I will take note of it. Shri Kuladhar Chaliha's name is under active consideration.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, our friend, Mr. Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh, has asked about criteria. I would also like to know what are the criteria and whether any proposal has been received from the Bihar Government to issue commemorative special postage stamps for personalities like the great scholar, Mandan Mishra and the great freedom fighter, Khudiram Bose.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I would inform the Member about the names. And the guidelines have already been laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am constrained to say...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't say anything. If you have a name, please suggest.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the basis that is being laid down for the selection of names, unfortunately, appears to me to be having a political bias because you might be selecting people who are scholars in the cultural field or in other spheres but I do not find a political person included in your list, who has been critical of the Government, but in his own right made a mark in Indian history.

To give two instances, I do not find the name of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, one of the most important parliamentarians of our times, and I do not find the name of comrade Muzaffar Ahmed who had been leading the movement of the toiling masses in eastern India for a long time.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I do not think that this suggestion or insinuation that the decision is taken on political basis, is correct. If the hon. Member were to go through the whole list, he would see that there are many great people who have had their own views which did not coincide with somebody else's views. But they find a place. So, it is not true.

Any other suggestion that he is making, we will certainly take into consideration.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I would like to ask the Minister how many women find a place in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now look at the list and find out.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am asking for the proportion, whether there is any proportion.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mrs. Indira Gandhi's name is one followed by so many.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the States have been exhausted.

WELCOME TO COLOMBIA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us this morning, seated in the special box, Members of the Colombian Parliamentary Delegation which is currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Dr. Jorge Cristo Sahiun, Vice-President of the Senate.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a very hearty welcome to the leader and other Members of the Delegation and wish our distinguished guests a very comfortable and enjoyable stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of their Congress and the friendly people of Colombia.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

Bulk carriers bought by great Eastern Shipping Company

*284. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:†
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in 'India Today', dated 15th March, 1987 to the effect that the private-sector Great Eastern Shipping Company has bought bulk carriers at a lower price than the public sector shipping company, Shipping Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, it is incorrect to say that the Great Eastern Shipping Company has bought bulk carriers at a fraction of the cost that the public sector shipping company had bought because the Great Eastern Shipping Company have not acquired any new bulk carrier in the recent past. They have recently purchased a second hand bulk carrier m.v. MIA (renamed m.v. Radhika) of 27463 DWT at a cost of US $2.55 million built in 1986. The Public Sector shipping company namely Shipping Corporation of India had bought 12 new bulk carriers of 45,000 DWT each from Deawoo Shipyard, Korea at a cost of US $15.00 million each. Thus the purchase of second hand bulk carrier by Great Eastern Shipping Company cannot be compared with the new bulk carriers acquired by the public sector shipping company.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as this particular aspect is concerned, it is all right. The purchase of a second-hand carrier need not be compared with the purchase of new carriers.

But, is it a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India is the biggest defaulter in so far as repayment of loans to the Government is concern-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lal K. Advani.